



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid
600 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02111
www.mass.gov/masshealth



Eligibility Operations Memo 08-01
January 15, 2008

TO: MassHealth Eligibility Operations Staff

FROM: Russ Kulp, Director, MassHealth Operations

RE: **Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver for Young Children with Autism**

Introduction

On November 5, 2007, in conjunction with the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR), MassHealth implemented the Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver for young children with autism.

The purpose of the waiver program is to help children with autism remain in their homes. Enrollment will be capped at 80 children.

MassHealth and the Autism Division of DMR will provide interventions and related support services to children who are enrolled in the waiver program. Those services include the following:

- homemaker services;
- habilitation – community integration;
- habilitation – activities of daily living (ADL)/independent living skills;
- expanded habilitation services – education;
- respite;
- adaptive aids/assistive technology;
- home adaptation/vehicle modification;
- family training; and
- individual goods and services.

A clinical reassessment will be done every year to determine ongoing eligibility for the program. Waiver eligibility ends when the child reaches his or her ninth birthday.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for services provided through the autism waiver, the child must meet certain requirements. The child must:

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**Eligibility
Requirements**
(cont.)

- have a confirmed diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, which includes autistic disorder, pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified (PDD-NOS), Rhett's syndrome, childhood disintegrative disorder, and Asperger's syndrome, subject to verification by DMR;
 - not have reached his or her ninth birthday;
 - be a resident of Massachusetts;
 - meet the level of care required for services from an intermediate-care facility for the mentally retarded (ICF/MR), as assessed by DMR;
 - be able to be safely served in the community; and
 - be eligible for MassHealth Standard.
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**Enrollment
Process**

Families will apply for the waiver benefits through DMR.

If the child is not currently on MassHealth, the family will be instructed to apply for benefits and will be given a MassHealth Medical Benefit Request (MBR). The child must be eligible for MassHealth Standard in order to be enrolled in the autism waiver.

If the child has been determined eligible for MassHealth, but not MassHealth Standard, DMR will send the applicant a waiver denial notice with appeal rights. The notice states that the child is not eligible for services through the autism waiver because the child is not eligible for MassHealth Standard. This denial is appealable to the MassHealth Board of Hearings. A copy of the notice is attached to this memo.

If the child is on MassHealth Standard, DMR will proceed with the clinical evaluation.

If the child does not meet the other requirements of the waiver, DMR will send a notice of denial. This notice will have appeal rights to DMR. The other reasons for denial are that the child

- is aged nine or older;
 - does not have a verified diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder;
 - does not meet the level of care required for admission to an ICF/MR; and
 - is not able to be safely served in the community.
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**MA21: Level-
of-Care Event**

When DMR enrolls a child in the autism waiver, it will forward a written notice of clinical approval for the autism waiver to the Revere MassHealth Enrollment Center (MEC). Revere MEC staff will put the level-of-care indicator in the event screen on MA21. This will allow the

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**MA21: Level-
of-Care Event
(cont.)**

correct benefit type to go over to MMIS so claims for waiver services can be processed.

The screen below shows the entry on the event screen.

PERPD480	PERMD480			
Name: JONES, ALMA				
SSN.: 022-20-1111				
Age.: 8				

Loc	Loc	Start	Stop	Cert.
*Type	*Code	Date	Date	Ind

AUTISM	_____	__ __ __	__ __ __	-
*Last Upd: EHS AV3 11/16/2007 11:42				

Questions

If you have any questions about this memo, please have your MEC designee contact the Policy Hotline.
